



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

21 OCTOBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – Microsoft Disables Russian-Speaking Cybercriminals' Control Over Network

(U) Microsoft Corp said on 20 October that it had disabled more than 90% of the machines used by a gang of Russian-speaking cybercriminals to control a massive network of computers with a potential to disrupt the US election. Aided by a series of US court orders and relationships with technology providers in other countries, Microsoft said its weeklong campaign against the gang running the Trickbot network was heading off a possible source of disruption to the 3 November US General Election.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [VOA](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – US Border Patrol Arrests Rapist and Child-Sex Offender Attempting Entry to US

(U) Tucson – US Border Patrol agents patrolling in southeastern Arizona arrested two previously incarcerated sex offenders in separate incidents on 19 October. The detained individuals, one a convicted rapist in Alabama, and the other a convicted child sex abuser in California, will face federal prosecution for immigration violations. All people apprehended by the US Border Patrol undergo criminal history checks using biometrics to ensure illegal aliens with criminal histories are positively identified.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) California – Binational Mirror Patrol Leads to Illicit Drug Seizures on Both Sides of Border

(U) Calexico – El Centro Sector Border Patrol and Mexican authorities, while performing a coordinated border mirroring patrol along a portion of the California-Mexico border seized approximately 1.1-pounds of methamphetamine. The illicit drugs were turned over to the DEA for further processing.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – Election Officials Contact Law Enforcement After Threatening Emails Sent to Voters

(U) Alachua County – Elections officials in Florida and Alaska contacted law enforcement on 20 October after registered voters reported receiving threatening e-mails that said, "Vote for Trump or else!" One e-mail sent to a voter in Florida included the person's home address. "You will vote for Trump on Election Day or we will come after you," the e-mail read. The e-mail was sent from "info@officialproudboys.com" and demanded that the recipient vote for a specified candidate through intimidation and coercion.

SOURCE: 21 October 2020, [CNN](#)

(U) Maryland – Five Alleged MS-13 Members Charged in Multiple Violations Including Murder

(U) Greenbelt – A federal grand jury has charged five men on 20 October with eleven indictments in connection to conspiracy to participate in a racketeering enterprise known as La Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13. The eleventh superseding indictment adds a new defendant charged with a racketeering conspiracy related to his membership in MS-13, including a double homicide and drug trafficking. The

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latest superseding indictment alleges that from prior to 2015 through at least January 2018, the defendants, as members and associates of MS-13, engaged in a racketeering conspiracy that included extortion, drug trafficking, money laundering, murder, conspiracy to commit murder, and robbery.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [US DOJ Press Release](#)

(U) Massachusetts – US Coast Guard Cutter Escanaba Returns to Boston after Counter-Narcotics Patrol

(U) Boston – The US Coast Guard (USCG) Cutter Escanaba returned to Boston on 20 October, following a 65-day counter-narcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean that resulted in the arrest of 15 suspected narcotics traffickers and seizure of an estimated \$58 million of illegal narcotics, the USCG 1st District said Tuesday. The crew supported Operation Martillo, a presidential initiative designed to disrupt transnational criminal organizations in Central and South America. Escanaba's crew deployed with an embarked Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron crew (HITRON) based out of Jacksonville, Florida, who augmented the cutter's law enforcement teams, with aerial use-of-force capabilities.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [Seapower Magazine](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Chad – Six Chad Soldiers Killed by Boko Haram Fighters

(U) Lake Chad Region – Boko Haram fighters killed six Chadian soldiers in the Lake Chad region, where deadly extremist attacks against civilians and security forces are on the rise, the army said on 20 October. Security experts say Boko Haram, which originated in Nigeria in 2009, has established bases on islets dotting Lake Chad, a vast swampy expanse in the border region straddled by Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon. The soldiers were killed while patrolling a group of islets on the Chad-Nigeria border, army spokesman General Azem Bermendoa Agouna said. Twelve other soldiers were wounded, and the military killed around ten "terrorists", he said.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [AFP](#)

(U) Paraguay – 2.3-Tons of Cocaine Found Hidden in Charcoal Shipment

(U) Asunción – Police in Paraguay have found a record 2.3-tons of cocaine hidden among a charcoal shipment destined for Israel. They said the drugs had an estimated street value of \$500 million. It is the largest drug seizure police have made in the South American country. The cocaine was found in a container at Terport, a private port in the city of Villeta, near the capital, Asunción.

SOURCE: 21 October 2020, [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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